MARVEL COMICS
THIS ISSUE--SPIDEY CROSSES THE LINE YOU NEVER THOUGHT HE WOULD!
the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN
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$1.50 US
$2.05 CAN/UK £1.25
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THE PREDATOR AND THE PREY
PART 1 of 2
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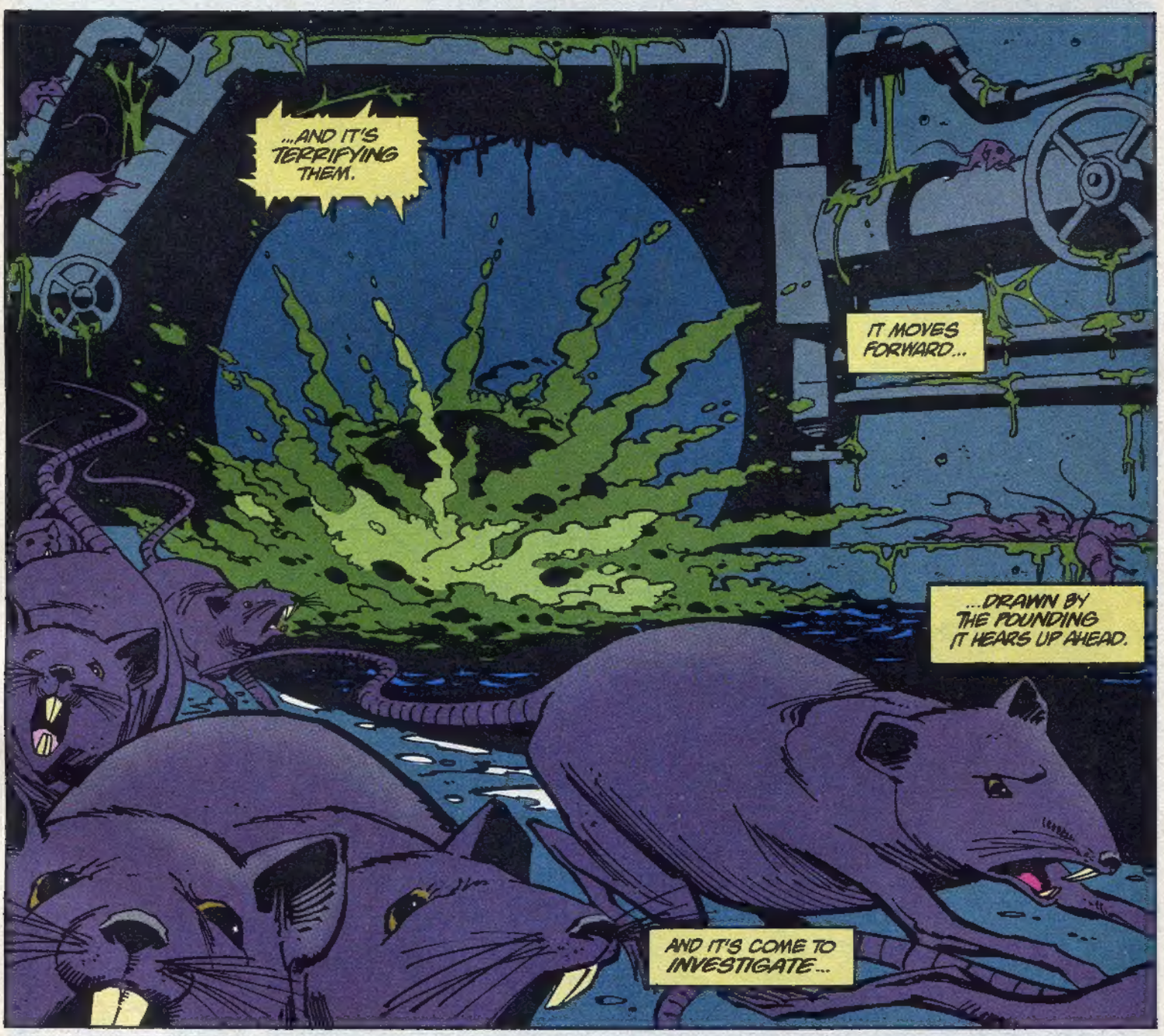
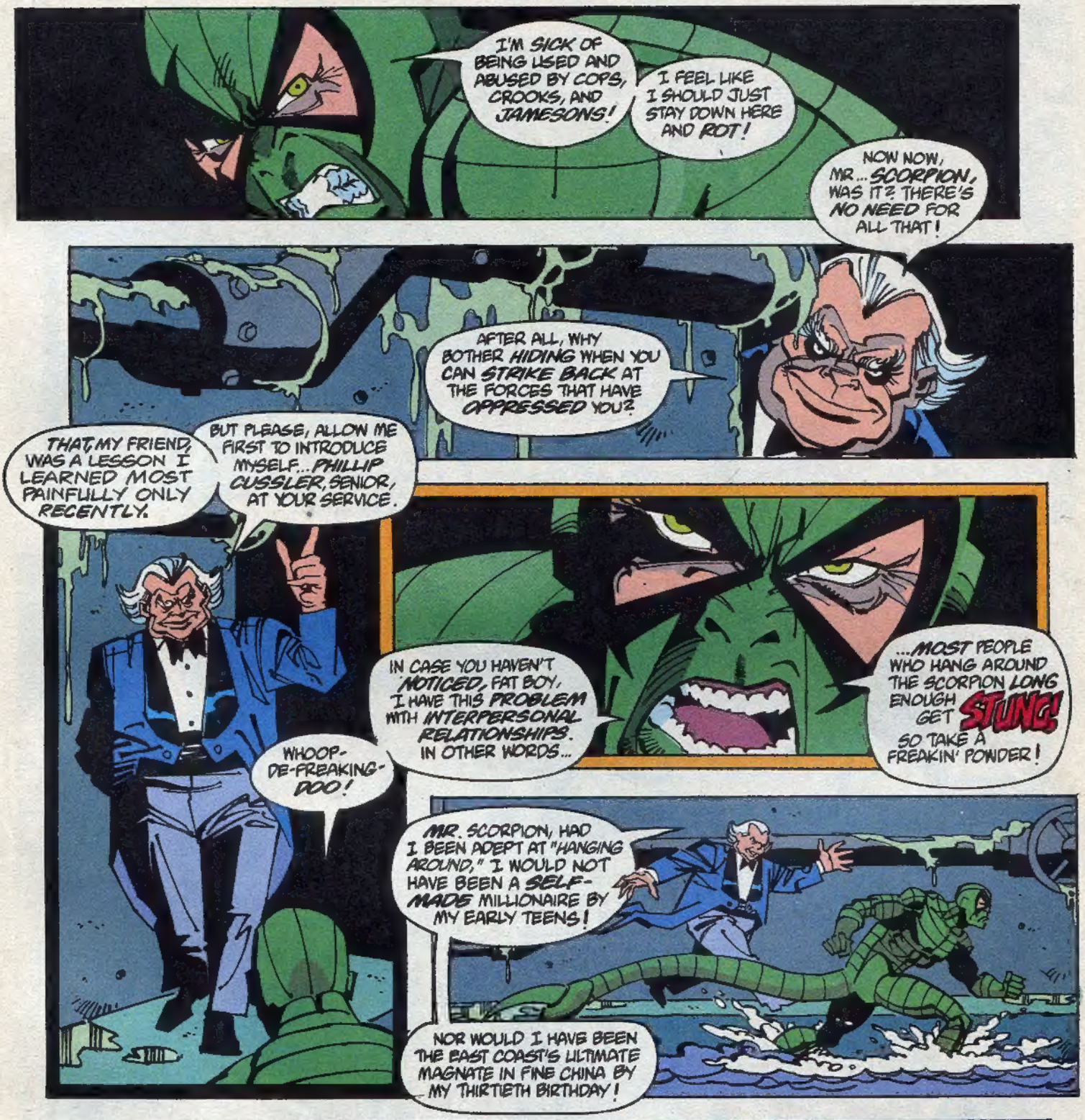
BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

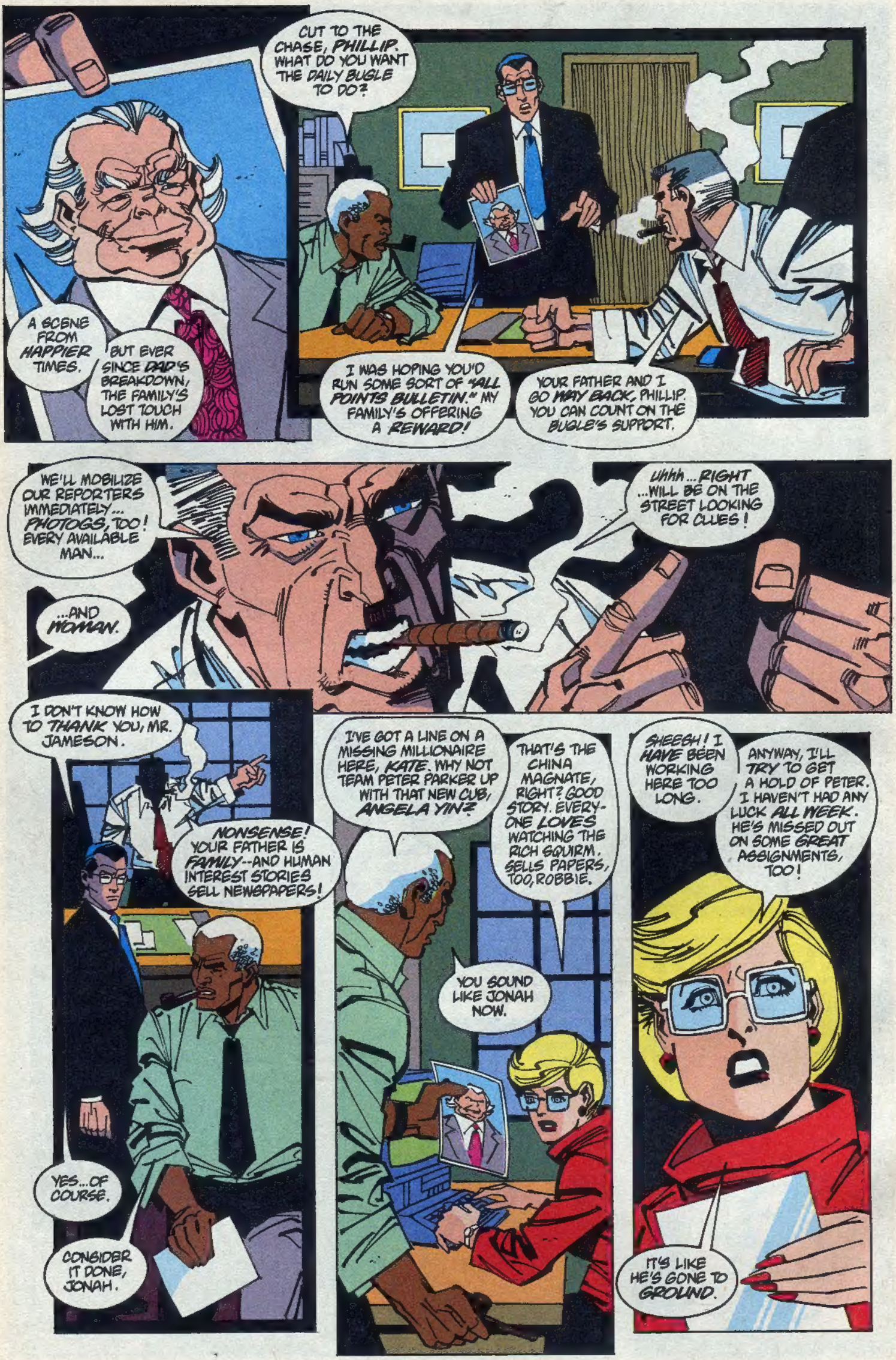
STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN



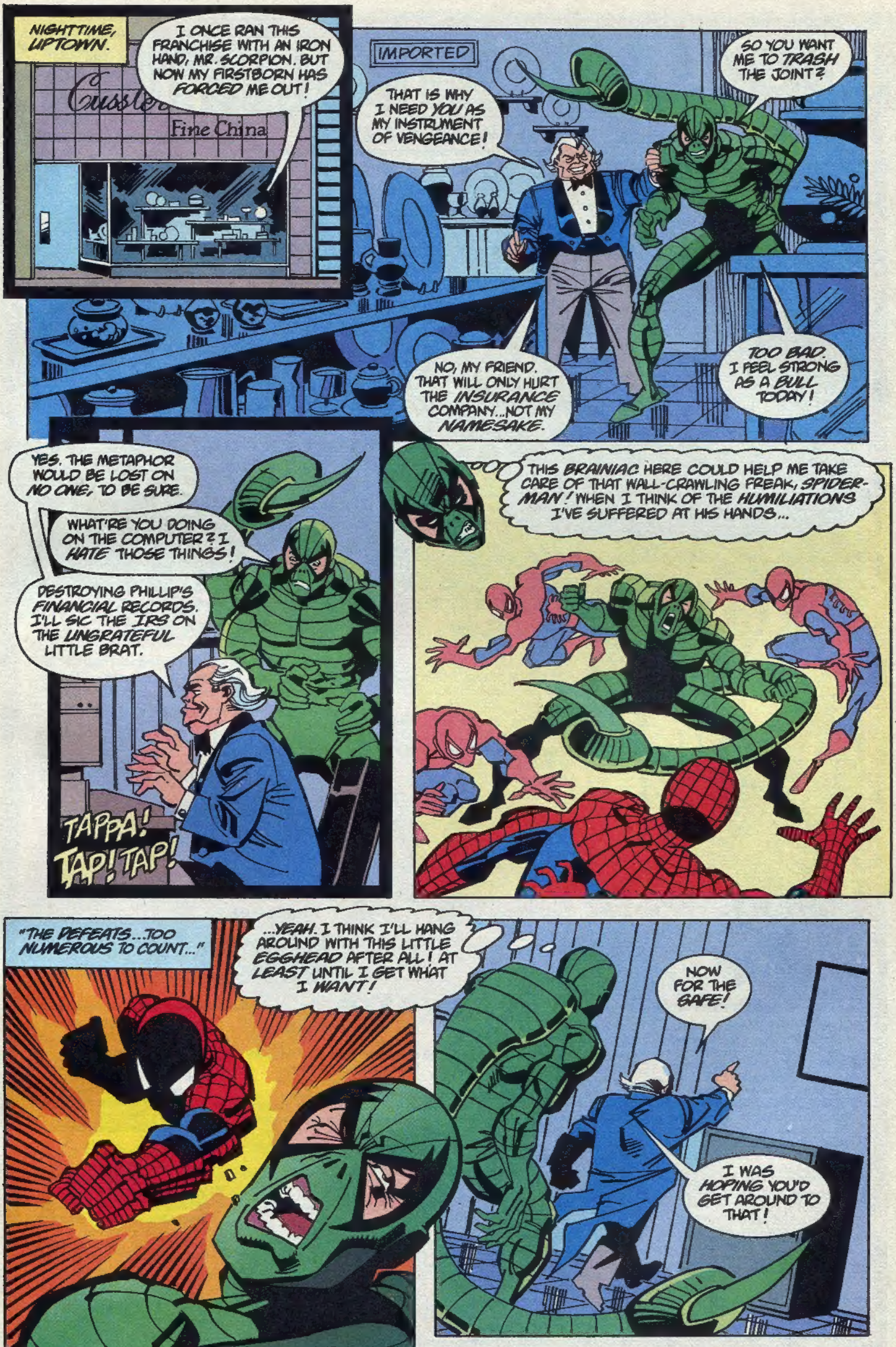
THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN™ Vol. 1, No. 215, August, 1994. (ISSN #0898-1833) Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. **SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.** Published monthly. Copyright © 1994 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.50 per copy in the U.S. and $2.05 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: $18.00 U.S.; Canadian subscribers must add $10.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. Foreign; $30.00. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING CORP. SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. P.O. BOX 1979 DANBURY, CT. 06813-1979. TELEPHONE # (212) 696-0610. Printed in the U.S.A.**

Stan Lee PRESENTS:
THE PREDATOR AND THE PREY PART ONE:
THE MONSTER WITHIN
I CAN'T TAKE NO MORE OF THIS GRIEF!
NO SOCIAL LIFE, NO CIVILIAN LIFE, NO LIFE ...PERIOD!
NOTHING ...OTHER THAN BEING THE SCORPION...
...AND BEING THE SCORPION STINKS!
TOM DeFALCO PLOT
SAL BUSCEMA ART
MIKE LACKEY SCRIPT
GLYNIS OLIVER COLORS
CLEM ROBINS LETTERS
MARK POWERS COWBOY
DANNY FINGEROTH GROUP EDITOR

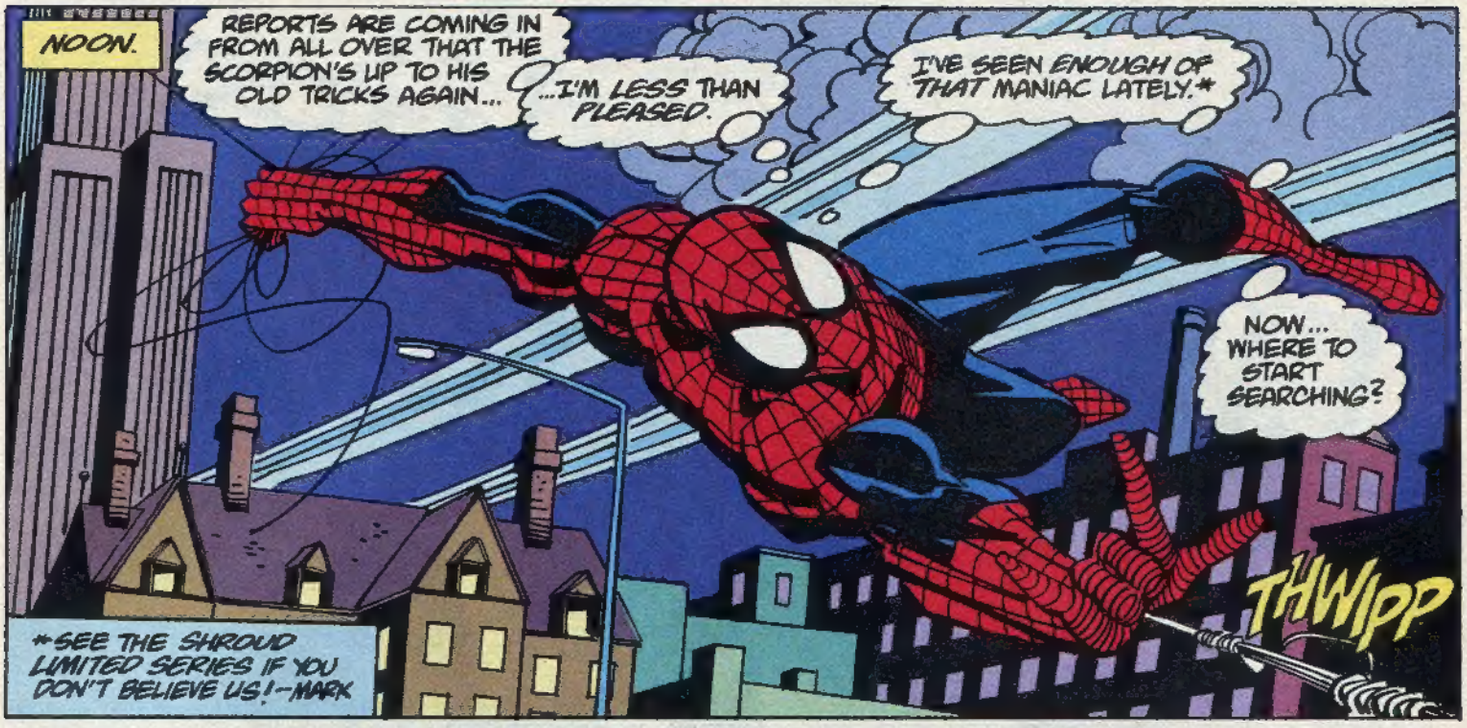

I'M SICK OF BEING USED AND ABUSED BY COPS, CROOKS, AND JAMESONS!
I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD JUST STAY DOWN HERE AND ROT!
NOW NOW, MR... SCORPION, WAS IT? THERE'S NO NEED FOR ALL THAT!
AFTER ALL, WHY BOTHER HIDING WHEN YOU CAN STRIKE BACK AT THE FORCES THAT HAVE OPPRESSED YOU?
THAT, MY FRIEND, WAS A LESSON I LEARNED MOST PAINFULLY ONLY RECENTLY.
BUT PLEASE, ALLOW ME FIRST TO INTRODUCE MYSELF... PHILLIP CUSSLER, SENIOR, AT YOUR SERVICE.
IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, FAT BOY, I HAVE THIS PROBLEM WITH INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS. IN OTHER WORDS...
...MOST PEOPLE WHO HANG AROUND THE SCORPION LONG ENOUGH GET STUNG! SO TAKE A FREAKIN' POWDER!
WHOOP-DE-FREAKING-DOO!
MR. SCORPION, HAD I BEEN ADEPT AT "HANGING AROUND," I WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN A SELF-MADE MILLIONAIRE BY MY EARLY TEENS!
NOR WOULD I HAVE BEEN THE EAST COAST'S ULTIMATE MAGNATE IN FINE CHINA BY MY THIRTIETH BIRTHDAY!
I SENSE YOU ARE A MAN OF ACTION AS WELL. WE SEEM TO BE KINDRED SPIRITS, OF A SORT.
MEN OF GREATNESS, SQUASHED DOWN INTO THE DEPTHS BY SOCIETY'S PANTYWAIST LAWS. OSTRACIZED BY THOSE LESSER MEN WHO FEAR US!
I SUGGEST AN ALLIANCE. I'M IN NEED OF PROTECTION, AND YOU, IT SEEMS, ARE IN NEED OF DIRECTION!
WHY NOT RETURN WITH ME TO MY HOME? CLEAN YOURSELF UP... HAVE SOME WINE. WE CAN TALK.
YOU TALK. I'LL LISTEN.
AND AS THEY SPLASH AWAY INTO THE STYGIAN DARKNESS... SOMETHING WATCHES...


A SCENE FROM HAPPIER TIMES.
BUT EVER SINCE DAD'S BREAKDOWN, THE FAMILY'S LOST TOUCH WITH HIM.
CUT TO THE CHASE, PHILLIP. WHAT DO YOU WANT THE DAILY BUGLE TO DO?
I WAS HOPING YOU'D RUN SOME SORT OF "ALL POINTS BULLETIN." MY FAMILY'S OFFERING A REWARD!
YOUR FATHER AND I GO WAY BACK, PHILLIP. YOU CAN COUNT ON THE BUGLE'S SUPPORT.
WE'LL MOBILIZE OUR REPORTERS IMMEDIATELY... PHOTOGS, TOO! EVERY AVAILABLE MAN...
...AND WOMAN.
UHHH... RIGHT ...WILL BE ON THE STREET LOOKING FOR CLUES!
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU, MR. JAMESON.
NONSENSE! YOUR FATHER IS FAMILY--AND HUMAN INTEREST STORIES SELL NEWSPAPERS!
YES...OF COURSE.
CONSIDER IT DONE, JONAH.
I'VE GOT A LINE ON A MISSING MILLIONAIRE HERE, KATE. WHY NOT TEAM PETER PARKER UP WITH THAT NEW CUB, ANGELA YIN?
THAT'S THE CHINA MAGNATE, RIGHT? GOOD STORY. EVERYONE LOVES WATCHING THE RICH SQUIRM. SELLS PAPERS, TOO, ROBBIE.
YOU SOUND LIKE JONAH NOW.
SHEESH! I HAVE BEEN WORKING HERE TOO LONG.
ANYWAY, I'LL TRY TO GET A HOLD OF PETER. I HAVEN'T HAD ANY LUCK ALL WEEK. HE'S MISSED OUT ON SOME GREAT ASSIGNMENTS, TOO!
IT'S LIKE HE'S GONE TO GROUND.

AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE BROWNSTONE APARTMENT OF PETER AND MARY JANE PARKER...
B-B-BRING B-B-BRING
...A MAN STAGGERS FROM THE BLOWS HIS DOUBLE-LIFE HAS DEALT HIM...
IT'S ALL FALLING APART.
AUNT MAY'S COLLAPSED FROM A MAJOR STROKE*. EVEN IF SHE LIVES, SHE MAY NEVER BE THE SAME.
I--I CAN'T DEAL WITH IT. AND THAT'S LEFT MJ HOLDING THE BAG.
B-B-BRINGG B-BRING B-BRING
*SEE AMAZING SPIDEY #392.-MARK
ON TOP OF ALL THAT, NOW MY SUPER HERO CAREER HAS BROUGHT DANGER AND DEATH TO OUR VERY HOME.*
AND MAYBE THAT'S HER CALLING. BUT I'M NOT SURE IF I WANT TO SPEAK TO HER--OR ANYBODY ELSE--JUST NOW...
B-B-BRINGG
*SEE OUR LAST TWO ISSUES!--MARK
HELLO?
OH, HI KATE. YEAH, IT'S ME. NO, SORRY. NOT INTERESTED.
IN FACT, I WON'T BE ACCEPTING ANY ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE NEAR FUTURE.
WHAT?
PHILLIP CUSSLER? THE MISSING MILLIONAIRE? HIS SON IS TRYING TO FIND HIM?
TELL ME MORE.

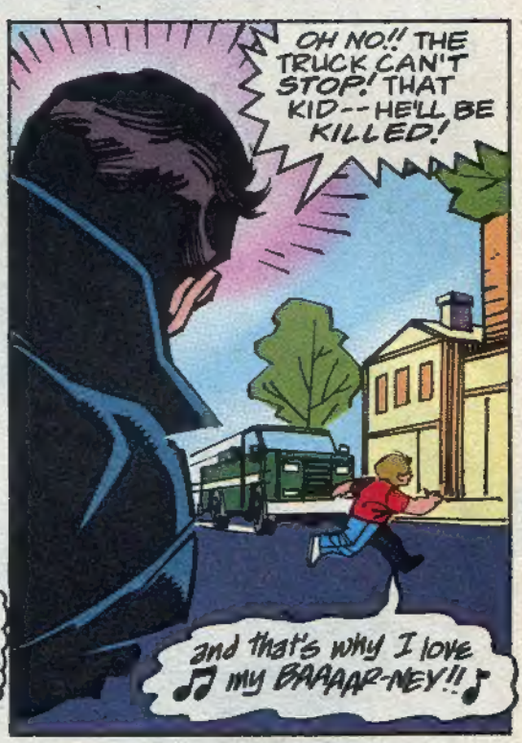

NIGHTTIME, UPTOWN.
I ONCE RAN THIS FRANCHISE WITH AN IRON HAND, MR. SCORPION. BUT NOW MY FIRSTBORN HAS FORCED ME OUT!
Fine China
IMPORTED
THAT IS WHY I NEED YOU AS MY INSTRUMENT OF VENGEANCE!
SO YOU WANT ME TO TRASH THE JOINT?
NO, MY FRIEND. THAT WILL ONLY HURT THE INSURANCE COMPANY...NOT MY NAMESAKE.
TOO BAD. I FEEL STRONG AS A BULL TODAY!
YES. THE METAPHOR WOULD BE LOST ON NO ONE, TO BE SURE.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING ON THE COMPUTER? I HATE THOSE THINGS!
DESTROYING PHILLIP'S FINANCIAL RECORDS. I'LL SIC THE IRS ON THE UNGRATEFUL LITTLE BRAT.
TAPPA! TAP! TAP!
THIS BRAINIAC HERE COULD HELP ME TAKE CARE OF THAT WALL-CRAWLING FREAK, SPIDER-MAN! WHEN I THINK OF THE HUMILIATIONS I'VE SUFFERED AT HIS HANDS...
"THE DEFEATS...TOO NUMEROUS TO COUNT..."
...YEAH. I THINK I'LL HANG AROUND WITH THIS LITTLE EGGHEAD AFTER ALL! AT LEAST UNTIL I GET WHAT I WANT!
NOW FOR THE SAFE!
I WAS HOPING YOU'D GET AROUND TO THAT!

MORNING.
WHAT AWESOME DESTRUCTION! WHAT VIOLENCE! THIS IS GREAT!
CLICK CLICK
TOUGH BREAK, SON.
THIS WAS NO ORDINARY HEIST, MR. JAMESON. ALL MY FINANCIAL RECORDS WERE DELETED FROM OUR DATABASE.
ONLY FATHER AND MYSELF HAVE ACCESS TO THAT STUFF.
MR. J?
WHAT IS IT, MS. YIN?
EYEWITNESS REPORTS STATE THAT THE SCORPION HAS BEEN SEEN IN THE AREA. THIS COULD BE HIS WORK.
I SUPPOSE, ANGELA. JUST KEEP SNAPPING AND STAY QUIET.
I DUNNO, MR. J. LOOK AT THOSE TEAR MARKS IN THAT WROUGHT-IRON. I'D BET THE BOYS DOWN IN THE CRIME LAB COULD MATCH...
MS. YIN, IF I WANT YOUR OPINION, I'LL ASK FOR IT.
ANYTHING YOU SAY, MR. J...
...YOU FLAT-HEADED, STOGIE-CHOMPING JERK!
DON'T LIKE TO TALK ABOUT MY LINKS WITH THE SCORPION, THAT, IN FACT, I HELPED CREATE HIM TO DESTROY SPIDER-MAN!*
BUT MAYBE I CAN USE THAT HISTORY TO MY ADVANTAGE. THE SCORPION HAS OBVIOUSLY KIDNAPPED CUSSLER HOPING FOR A HUGE RANSOM.
I CAN USE THE BUGLE AS AN OPEN FORUM FOR HIM WHILE NEGOTIATING CUSSLER'S RELEASE. IT COULD BE JUST THE THING THE BUGLE NEEDS TO GET SALES BACK UP...
...PUT THE BUGLE BACK ON TOP...WHERE IT BELONGS!
* THE NOW-CLASSIC ASM #9! --MARK


NOON.
REPORTS ARE COMING IN FROM ALL OVER THAT THE SCORPION'S UP TO HIS OLD TRICKS AGAIN...
...I'M LESS THAN PLEASED.
I'VE SEEN ENOUGH OF THAT MANIAC LATELY.*
NOW... WHERE TO START SEARCHING?
THWIPP
*SEE THE SHROUD LIMITED SERIES IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US!--MARK

WELL, WHADDAYA KNOW? "MIGHTY MOUTH" MARTIN, TWO-BIT HOODLUM AND INFORMANT. HE'S ALREADY FINKED ON HALF THE CROOKS IN TOWN!
MEANWHILE, MANY MILES TO THE WEST--

--A HAUNTED, SOLITARY FIGURE PAUSES IN HIS FEVERED TRAVEL TO NEW YORK CITY, STOPPING ONLY FOR THE MOST NECESSARY SUSTENANCE...
I'M EXHAUST-ED--
--BUT I STILL FEEL GUILTY FOR STOPPING AT ALL.
MAY PARKER NEEDS ME.
SHE'S THE ONE PERSON I'D RISK RETURNING TO NEW YORK FOR. SHE--


OH NO!! THE TRUCK CAN'T STOP! THAT KID--HE'LL BE KILLED!
and that's why I love ♫ my BAAAAR-NEY!! ♫

--LET--
--THAT--
I--
--CAN'T--
--HAPPEN!!

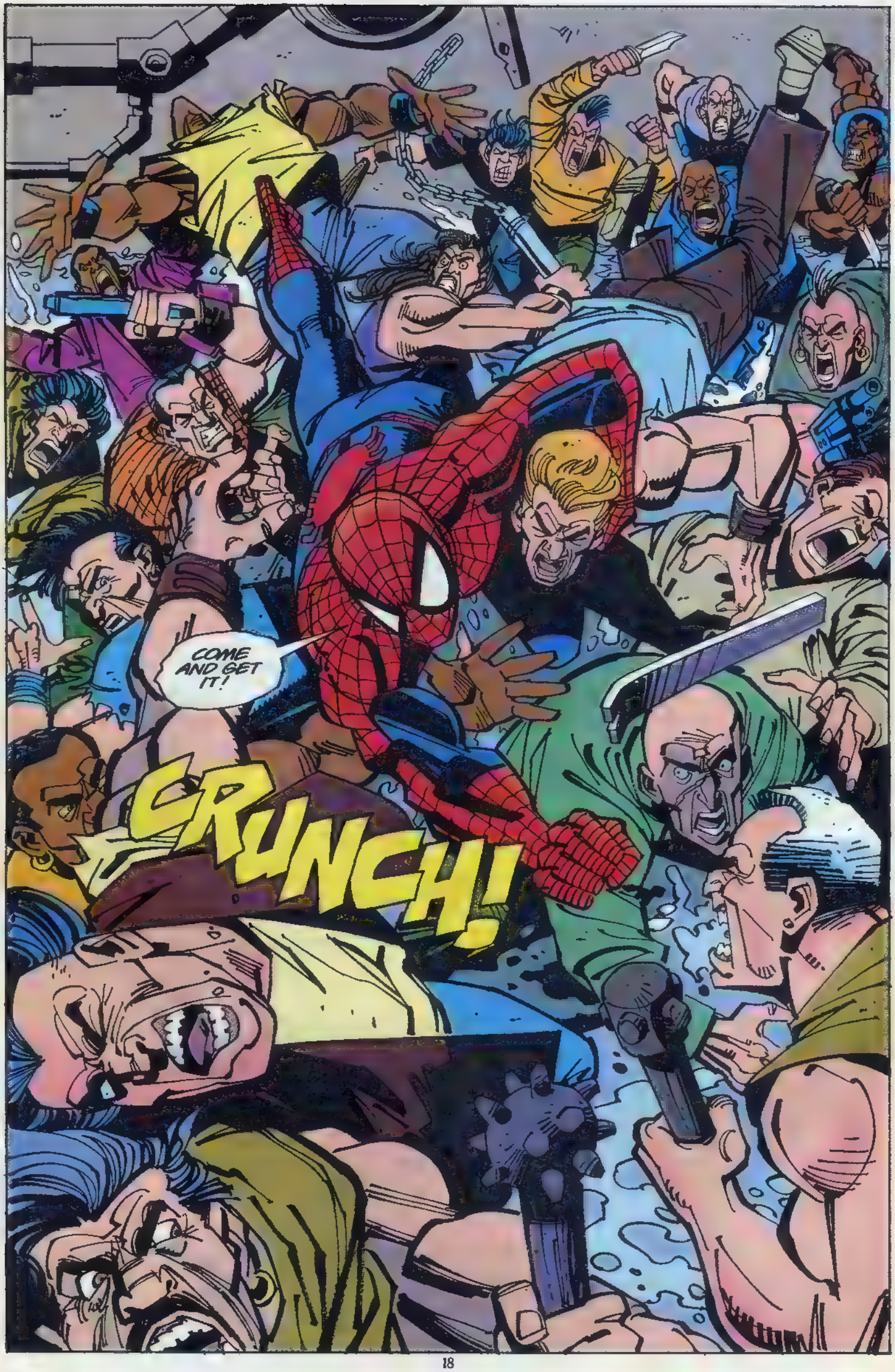
SCREEEEEEEECH
AND I WON'T!!
MOMMEEEE
WHOA--!
DON'T WORRY, KID. YOU'RE OKAY NOW.
JEFFREY! THANK HEAVENS!
THANKS, MISTER. THANKS A LOT! YOU SAVED HIS LIFE!
DO YOU WANT MONEY? I'LL GIVE YOU SOME!
KEEP YOUR MONEY. BUY A LEASH FOR THE KID, INSTEAD.
I'LL HAVE TO CIRCLE BACK FOR MY MOTORCYCLE. DON'T WANT ANYONE STOPPING ME...ASKING QUESTIONS.
DON'T LIKE TO RISK ANYONE REALIZING WHO --OR WHAT-- I AM.
BUT NOTHING'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN SAVING A LIFE!
NEW YORK CITY...
SO AS I WAS SAYING, MR. SCUMBUCKET, I'D LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT THE SCORPION.
YOU DON'T SCARE ME, SPIDEY...YOU WOULDN'T DROP...
GUESS WHAT, GENIUS? MY ARM SURE IS SORE FROM THAT AWFUL POUNDING I JUST GAVE YOU...
...AND YOU'RE GETTING REALLY HEAVY.
I'LL TALK!!
SCORPION'S GATHERING A GANG TOGETHER FOR A BIG JOB AND HE'S SEEKING TALENT TO...

NINE P.M.
NUTS...I'M NOT GETTING ANYWHERE— AND THE SCORPION WILL BE MAKING HIS MOVE ANY MINUTE NOW!
THERE ARE SEVEN CUSSLER CHINA SHOPS IN MANHATTAN ALONE ...MORE OUT IN THE BOROUGHS!
WHICH ONE WILL THEY HIT? WHICH ONE?!
DOWNSTAIRS...
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
YES, THAT WAS A RIBALD JOKE, MR. SCORPION.
THAT'S GARGAN...MAC GARGAN!
MAN...IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS ANYTHING BUT THE SCORPION.
TELL ME, CUSSLER... HOW'S A LITTLE OLD MAN LIKE YOURSELF SURVIVE DOWN HERE?
I HAVE MY WAYS.
HAVING FULL ACCESS TO MY FORTUNE THROUGH AN ATM CARD WILL REMAIN MY SECRET... FOR NOW.
YOU'RE A HOOT, CUSSLER!
heh heh, YES. ENJOYING YOURSELF, MR. GARGAN?
YEAH...HEH!...MAYBE IT'S THE WINE, BUT I NEVER REALIZED WHAT I WAS MISSING MY IGNORING MY CIVILIAN SIDE.
THERE'LL BE MANY MORE SUCH EVENINGS, BUT FOR NOW, IT'S TIME TO GET TO WORK!
WE HAVE PEOPLE WAITING FOR US.
THESE LAST FEW HOURS AS GARGAN HAVE BEEN SO PEACEFUL... PURE BLISS. DO I REALLY WANT TO CONTINUE MY LIFE AS THE SCORPION?
A LIFE OF CRIME... VIOLENCE?
MAYBE...MAYBE NOT. BUT CUSSLER HAS GIVEN ME BACK SOMETHING...SOMETHING I THOUGHT I'D LOST A LONG TIME AGO...
...AND FOR THAT, I OWE HIM!

UPSTAIRS.
OUR CHAIN'S COMPUTERS ARE NOW NETWORKED WITH YOURS HERE AT THE BUGLE, MR. JAMESON.
NOW WE CAN TELL WHICH STORE FATHER GOES ON-LINE WITH AFTER HOURS.
I NEVER REALLY TRUST THESE BLASTED THINGS, CUSSLER. GIVE ME MY OLD MANUAL UNDERWOOD ANY DAY!
THAT'S IT... THE HERALD SQUARE SHOP ...WE'RE A GO!
THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY, MR. J. I JUST KNOW I'LL...
YOU DID CALL THE POLICE, DIDN'T YOU, MR. JAMESON?
OF COURSE I DID!
CROSSTOWN...
THIS IS THE LAST STORE! IT MUST BE WHERE IT'S GOING DOWN!
SCORPION'S GOON SQUAD'S ALREADY SHOWN UP. NOW THE QUESTION: DO I TAKE THE LOFTY APPROACH AND SNEAK IN OR...
OR AT LEAST I WILL, ONCE THIS CUB PHOTOGRAPHER GETS MY EXCLUSIVE PICTURES!
NERVOUS ABOUT MEETING UP WITH GARGAN AGAIN, BUT I'M SURE I CAN BUY HIM OFF SHOULD THINGS GET STICKY!
WITH CUSSLER'S MONEY, OF COURSE.
HEY, STUPID!
YOU LOOKED!
SLAM

BLAM BLAM THWOK
SO MUCH FOR THE CANNON FODDER.
REMEMBER OUR DISCUSSIONS. HOW SPIDER-MAN HAS ALWAYS BEATEN YOU...
...BY PITTING HIS SPEED AND AGILITY AGAINST YOUR NAKED BRAWN!
A BATTLE'S WON BEFORE THE FIRST BLOW IS STRUCK. THINK. EMPLOY YOUR STRENGTH AND TAIL TO ITS BEST ADVANTAGE!
NOT THAT YOU'LL NEED IT, BUT GOOD LUCK.
SPIDER-SENSE!
WELL, WELL, LOOK WHO'S FINALLY DECIDED TO CRAWL OUT OF...
...OR FOR THAT MATTER, BACK INTO HIS HOLE!

SPIDER-SENSE SOUNDING OFF! MUST BE GETTING CLOSE...
...OR NOT!
SCORPION MUST'VE GONE THIS WAY! WITH ANY LUCK, I'LL HAVE CAUGHT UP WITH HIM BEFORE ANY HARM BEFALLS MR. CUSSLER.
SHEESH! IT STINKS DOWN HERE WORSE THAN JONAH'S CIGARS! GOOD THING I'M BREATHING THROUGH MY MASK.
HMMM. JUDGING FROM THE WAY MY HEAD'S TINGLING, MY PLAYMATES MUST BE UP JUST AHEAD.
MIGHT AS WELL GET THIS OVER WITH!
YO! SPIDER-MAN, OVER HERE!
THERE HE IS, MATES! LET'S SQUASH THAT BUG!
YEAH! SLICE HIM FROM NAVE TO CHOPS!*
I'M GONNA DEFENESTRATE HIM!
I GOT DIBS ON THE MASK...
...NOBODY MESS UP TH' MASK!
YOU WANT MY MASK?
*A PARAPHRASE FROM SHAKESPEARE'S MACBETH. --LITERARY MARK


COME AND GET IT!
CRUNCH!

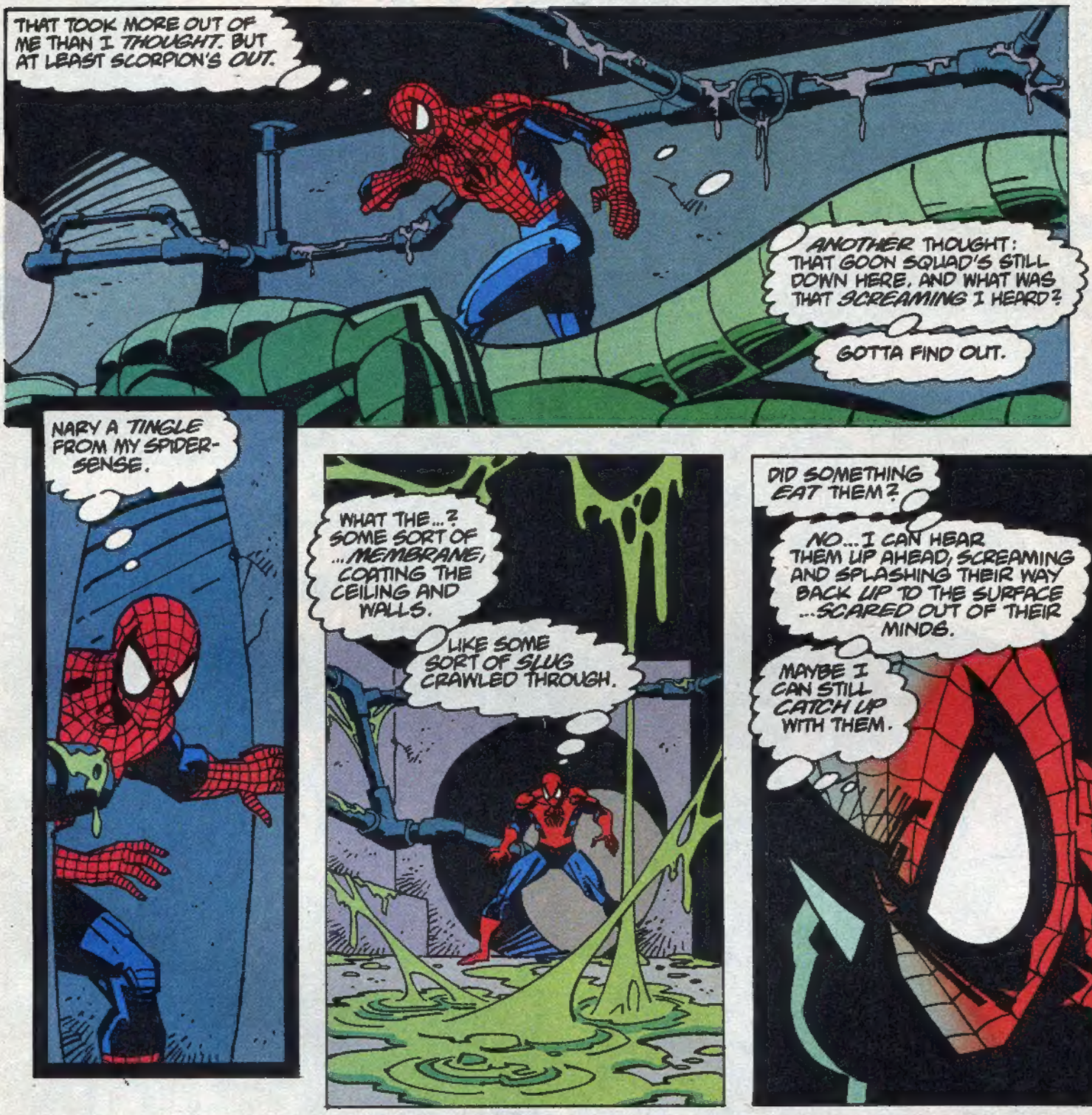
FLANK HIM!
CRUNCH
SMAK!
HOW'Z HE'S EVERYWHERE!
BONK
THWAK
THWOK
BRAAAP!
PILE ON HIM! HE'S JUST ONE...!
THUP
SPLASH
CHOK
I'M BLEEDIN'!
BLEED MORE.
FWOK!
YAAUGGH!
THE BRUTAL CLASH CONTINUES, AS FACES SLAM REPEATEDLY INTO CEMENT-HARD FISTS...
...AND IN THE SHADOWS, DRAWN BY THE SOUNDS OF CONFLICT ...IT WATCHES!

MEANWHILE, AT STREET LEVEL...
SPIDER-MAN MUST HAVE SOUNDLY BEATEN THAT ROGUES GALLERY...
IT SURE GOT QUIET DOWN THERE ALL OF A SUDDEN.
FATHER! THANK GOD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT. THE FAMILY'S BEEN SO WORRIED!
I'LL BET THEY WERE... WORRIED THEY WOULDN'T GET THEIR FILTHY HANDS ON THAT BIG, FAT INHERITANCE!
SO GET BACK... GET BACK, I SAY! I...I'M NOT AFRAID TO USE THIS!
DON'T BE A FOOL, DAD!
GOSH, MR. J! HE'S GOT A WRENCH!
BELOW...
THAT WAS ALMOST FUN. BUT NOW TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND...
FINDING...THEN SEVERELY BEATING ...THE SCORPION!
ALTHOUGH I MUST ADMIT, THIS WHOLE CAPER SEEMS A BIT TOO WELL THOUGHT OUT FOR OLD MAC GARGAN. HE MUST'VE HAD HELP.
UH-OH... SPIDER-SENSE!
INCOMING!
LET ME KNOW WHAT THE LAST THING IS THAT GOES THROUGH YOUR MIND, WEB-HEAD...
...'CAUSE FROM WHERE I'M STANDING, IT'S A TOSSUP BETWEEN MY TAIL OR MY FIST!

DOWN HERE IN THE SEWERS, THE ADVANTAGE IS MINE...YOU AIN'T GOT NO ROOM FOR THOSE FANCY MANEUVERS OF YOURS!
THWAM
UGGH! LIKE HITTING A BRICK WALL!
AS MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT...HE'S RIGHT! IF I DON'T MOVE THIS BATTLE TO A MORE OPEN TUNNEL, IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE I'M ONE SQUASHED SPIDER!
SPLAMM
WHERE'S THE QUIPS, WEB-HEAD? WHERE'S THAT ANNOYING BANTER?
CRUNCH
EEEEEEEEW, TOUGH GUY!
LETTIN' YOUR FISTS DO THE TALKIN', AIN'T YOU?
THAT'S OKAY.
I LET MY TAIL DO MOSTA' MINE!
SPRAK
SPRAMM

SEVERAL TUNNELS AWAY...
I SAY WE POUND ON THE BLOODY SCORPION FOR SUCKERIN' US IN ON THIS CAPER!
THAT WAS HUMILIATIN', TO SAY THE LEAST.
THAT'S WHY I TOLDYA TO GET THE MONEY UP FRONT, STUPID! NOW WE AIN'T...
HEY...WHUZZAT?
WHUZ WHAT? I DON'T SEE NUTHIN'...!
UP AHEAD, THERE...IN THE DARKNESS!
GOOD LORD, MATES! WHAT IS IT?
IT'S COMIN' STRAIGHT AT US! IT'S GONNA EAT US ALIVE!
YAAAAUUUGHH!
WHAT WAS THAT? SOUNDED LIKE SCORPION'S MEN!
BUT WHAT COULD'VE ...?
WAKE UP, WEB-HEAD! I AIN'T LETTIN' YOU SPOIL MY MOMENT OF GLORY...THE DAY I TAKE YOU DOWN FOR THE COUNT...
...BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T PAYING ATTENTION!
HE'S RIGHT ...AGAIN!
THWOK
HE'S BEING CRAFTY...USING HIS TAIL TO KEEP ME PINNED DOWN! AND HERE I AM THROWING PUNCHES LIKE SOME BRAWLER!
THIS ENDS NOW!!

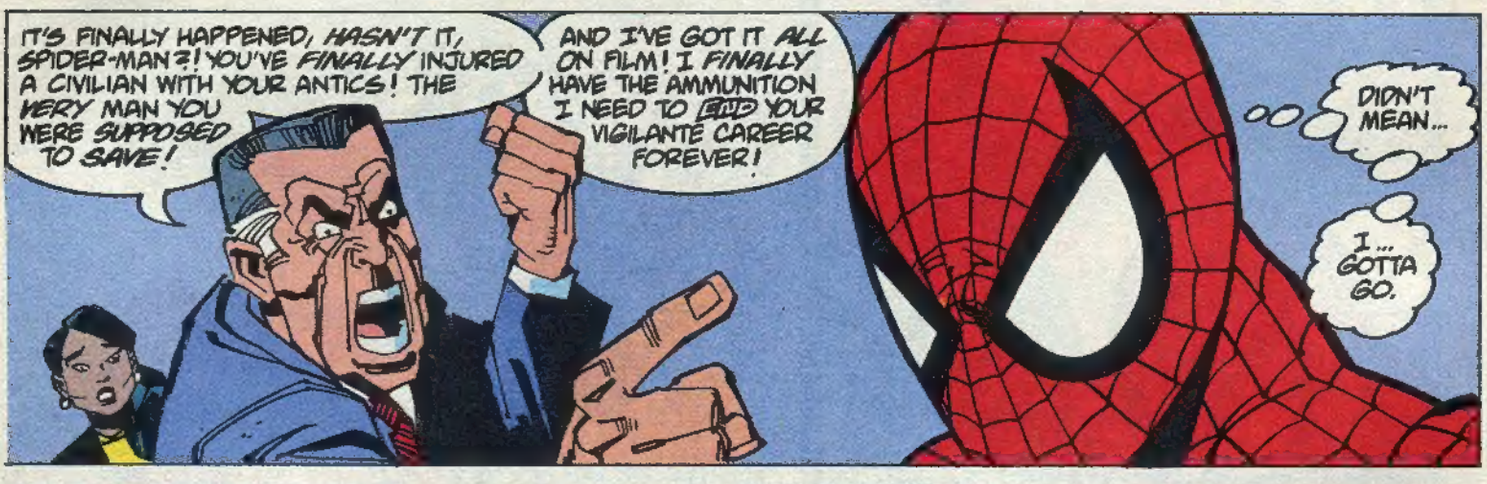
THWOP
BRAKK!
SMAK
BROKK!
KRAK!
THUD!
IF YOU INSIST.


THAT TOOK MORE OUT OF ME THAN I THOUGHT. BUT AT LEAST SCORPION'S OUT.
ANOTHER THOUGHT: THAT GOON SQUAD'S STILL DOWN HERE, AND WHAT WAS THAT SCREAMING I HEARD?
GOTTA FIND OUT.
NARY A TINGLE FROM MY SPIDER-SENSE.
WHAT THE...? SOME SORT OF ...MEMBRANE, COATING THE CEILING AND WALLS.
LIKE SOME SORT OF SLUG CRAWLED THROUGH.
DID SOMETHING EAT THEM?
NO...I CAN HEAR THEM UP AHEAD, SCREAMING AND SPLASHING THEIR WAY BACK UP TO THE SURFACE ...SCARED OUT OF THEIR MINDS.
MAYBE I CAN STILL CATCH UP WITH THEM.
SOMETHING IN THE CORNER?!?
NO...MUST'VE BEEN MY IMAGINATION. STRESSED OUT ...GOTTA...
...GOTTA FIND SCORPION'S MEN. GOTTA SAVE THE OLD MAN...
...THE SON'S LOOKING...FOR HIS FATHER!

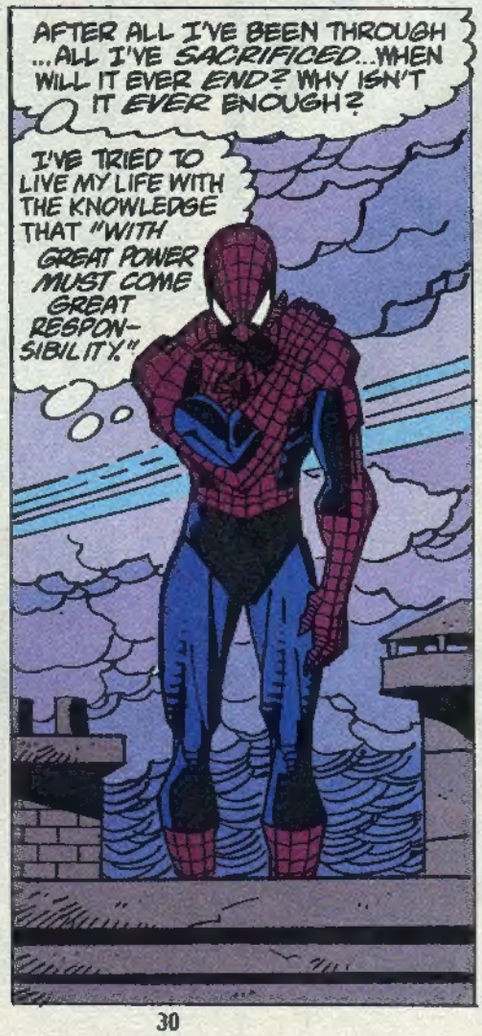
SHOULD'VE FOUND OUT WHERE THE OLD GUY WAS BEFORE I KNOCKED SCORPION SENSELESS.
AND I SHOULD'VE WEBBED THOSE HOODLUMS UP SO THEY COULDN'T ESCAPE.
I'M SO TIRED I CAN HARDLY THINK STRAIGHT. MY ONLY CHANCE OF FINDING CUSSLER IS IF HE DROPPED OUT OF THE SKY AND LANDED ON MY...
...MY RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION, I...LOOK AT ME WHEN I'M RANTING AT YOU!
SPIDER-MAN!
JAMESON?
SPIDER-SENSE!
NOOOOOOO!!
SOMEONE'S ATTACKING!
KRAK
OHHHHH...
B-DAM!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
HE ATTACKED CUSSLER! DID YOU GET THAT ON FILM, MS. YIN?
A-FIRMATIVE, MR. J!
GOOD.

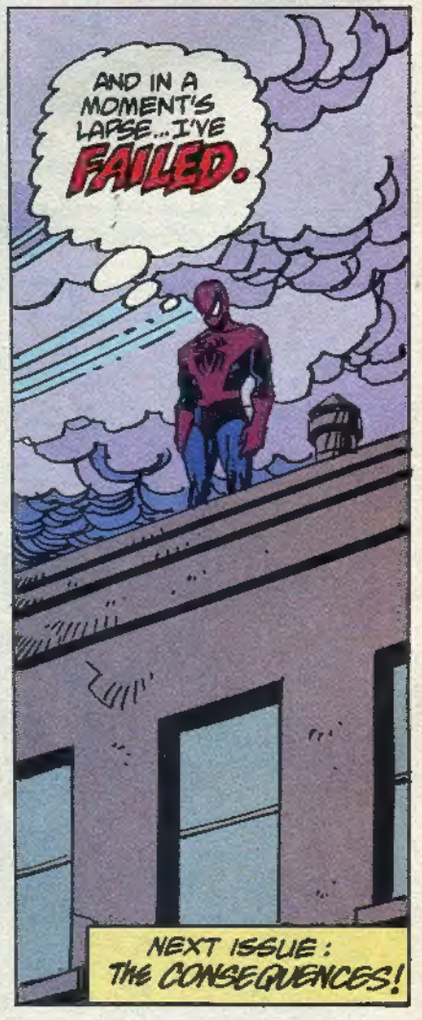
DAD! FATHER, PLEASE...SPEAK TO ME! HIS HEAD ...IT HIT SO HARD!
SOMEBODY CALL AN AMBU-LANCE! WHERE ARE THOSE POLICE YOU CALLED, JAMESON?!
HE'S SO STILL... HE'S NOT MOVING! SOMEBODY PLEASE HELP!

LASHED OUT ...WITHOUT THINKING!
I'M SO WOUND UP...BEEN DAYS SINCE I'VE SLEPT... AND NOW I'VE...
...I'VE HURT AN OLD MAN... AN INNOCENT MAN! I COULD HAVE--SHOULD HAVE...


IT'S FINALLY HAPPENED, HASN'T IT, SPIDER-MAN?! YOU'VE FINALLY INJURED A CIVILIAN WITH YOUR ANTICS! THE VERY MAN YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO SAVE!
AND I'VE GOT IT ALL ON FILM! I FINALLY HAVE THE AMMUNITION I NEED TO END YOUR VIGILANTE CAREER FOREVER!
DIDN'T MEAN...
I... GOTTA GO.

CUSSLER WILL BE IN THE EMERGENCY WARD ANY MINUTE NOW... HE SHOULD BE OKAY. BUT HE'S OLD. WHAT IF HIS BODY CAN'T TAKE A BLOW LIKE THAT?


AFTER ALL I'VE BEEN THROUGH ...ALL I'VE SACRIFICED...WHEN WILL IT EVER END? WHY ISN'T IT EVER ENOUGH?
I'VE TRIED TO LIVE MY LIFE WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT "WITH GREAT POWER MUST COME GREAT RESPON-SIBILITY."


AND IN A MOMENT'S LAPSE... I'VE FAILED.
NEXT ISSUE: THE CONSEQUENCES!

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAIL

© MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

MARK POWERS
EDITOR
DANNY FINGEROTH
GROUP EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

ATTENTION, SPIDER-FANS!

As you may have noticed by now, there's been a mysterious figure showing up in these pages, gradually moving closer and closer to Spidey's life. Who is he? What does he want? And how will his inevitable confrontation with Spider-Man change the wall-crawler's life forever? This mystery is weaving its way through all four of the Spider-Man titles, and if you haven't been picking them all up, then you're not getting the full story! Follow this stranger's appearances in order in these titles:

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #114
SPIDER-MAN #48
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #115
SPIDER-MAN #49
SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #215
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #116
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #393
SPIDER-MAN #50
SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #216

These appearances by the mystery man will climax in the shocking ending to SPEC #216, and lead directly into the major storyline that starts in WEB #117.

In that issue, we begin the roller coaster ride to the landmark 400th issue of AMAZING with "Power and Responsibility," the all-Spider-title crossover that introduces a major new villain to the mythos, and shakes up the status quo of all of Spidey's books! Don't miss out on the storyline that we *guarantee* will have fandom talking for years to come!

Dear Spectacular Spider-Men (and Women),

In regards to SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #212, I would just like to say . . . Great issue! After following the "Pursuit" storyline, it was quite refreshing to see good ol' Spidey save that guy from falling to his doom from that bridge. After all, Spider-Man's supposed to be about saving people, and making a difference for the little guy. It was also great to see the Master of Vengeance back after his brief run in SPIDER-MAN #32-34. Once again, you guys were able to give the bad guy some depth and not just make him some twisted, vengeance-craving guy who tears up the city just to get stopped by the friendly neighborhood good guy.

By the way, it's good to see the web-slinger use a little more force and become a little more brutal, but please, don't let him cross over the line. I've always admired his sense of right and wrong. It's what sets him aside, and makes him better than characters like the Punisher. Also, it would stink *big time* if you guys had something bad happen to Aunt May or had Peter and Mary Jane split up. So please don't! I'm looking forward to seeing what the future holds, whatever it may be.

Sincerely,
Jason Pynn
22720 287th Pl S.E.
Maple Valley, WA 98038

Hmmm. If you're looking for us to maintain the status quo, you've come to the wrong place, Jason, 'cause we're planning to really shake things up real soon!

Dear Spectacular Spider-Mail:

Yesterday, I heard a song called "Mary Jane's Last Dance."

What is destiny trying to tell us?

Hector M. Padilla
Recreo 103-6 Col. Del Valle
C.P. 031000
Mexico City, Mexico

Destiny is telling you to switch from records to compact discs.

Dear Mark,

Issue #212 was one of the most satisfying installments of this book in some time. Following the trauma of the Peter's parents storyline, followed by the speed and savagery of "Pursuit," I was ready for a break from the themes that have run through all the Spider-books (the Spiderverse?) for so long now.

And you guys gave me exactly what I wanted: a fun, one-issue story with wit, action, great writing and great art. And, to top it all off, you still kept the tone and feel of the Spidey-books intact, with a tougher, angrier Peter taking out the villain. Not an easy balancing act, but you guys did it!

I'm eagerly looking forward to the future.

Jason Zane
63 Meloine Rd.
Oakland, CA 94609

Glad you liked the lighter approach to that issue, Jason. With the heavy, psychologically-driven storyline we had just completed (not to mention all the twists coming up), it seemed like the perfect time for a tale with a bit more humor in it..and Mike is known for his great stint on BEAVIS AND BUTT-HEAD!

Dear Mark,

Before he was the guy to beat,
And then he went over the edge.
Now he's lashing out left and right,
On him, your bets I would hedge.

Kevin Prescott
(Address withheld by request)

**Thank you muchos for the poem,
It was a funny change.
We hope this is a good response,
'Cause rhyming's out of our range!**

Dear Spectacular Spider-Mail,

Re: SSM #212.

This was great! Spidey finally had too much and used a villain's own weaponry against him. Keep it up! I have a few questions, though:

1. Will Peter and Mary Jane ever have any children?

2. Will the Puma ever come back?

3. Finally, will the Spider-books ever cross over again?

Well, issue #212 was a great issue. With everything that's building up, I can't wait until issue #225. Oh, one more thing. I forgot to compliment you on the best part of the whole comic, the "Super 'Boys II" box.

Until Emmitt, Troy, and Michael become super-powered super heroes, make mine Marvel!

Jeff Ackenback
721 Emerson Dr.
Seymour, IN 47274

Jeff, Jeff, Jeff...Emmitt, Troy, and Michael already are super heroes. Seriously, thanks for the kind words. As for your questions:

1. Don't you think their lives are hectic enough? But don't rule it out. Things happen in the strangest of ways in the Spiderverse.

2. The Puma returns in a two-part story that begins in AMAZING #394 and concludes here in SPECTACULAR #218.

3. Is the Pope Catholic? You'll want to pick up the four-part "Power and Responsibility," which runs in the August-shipping Spider-books. I'm not exaggerating when I say that you will be extremely sorry if you don't read those issues!

--Mark

NEXT ISSUE: A desperate Spidey hunts the Scorpion--but Mac Gargan is no longer willing prey! And--at long last--Spidey comes face-to-face with the "Mystery Man" in the most stunning twist of the year! It all happens here in 30 days---and it all leads directly into "Power and Responsibility"!